

**FOR THE PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION WORKING GROUP'S CONSIDERATION
COMMENTS PROVIDED BY THE EMPOWERMENT CONGRESS'
JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, April 18, 2016**

The Empowerment Congress

The Empowerment Congress, a distinctive and deliberate national model of civic engagement built on the core principles of participatory democracy, reciprocal accountability, and intentional civility, is a dynamic partnership among neighborhood groups, residents, nonprofit organizations, businesses, religious institutions, and community leaders within the diverse communities of Los Angeles County's Second Supervisorial District. The Empowerment Congress is comprised of various committees, one of which is the Public Safety & Justice Committee.

Public Safety & Justice Committee – The Public Safety & Justice Committee's function is to educate the community about events and issues that impact the safety and well-being of the community and its residents. The Committee members are committed to addressing critical public safety and justice issues, providing leadership around mobilizing and educating the community. The Committee works together with the community in search of solutions. Current goals are to: 1) educate and inform the community on public safety policies and initiatives impacting the Second Supervisorial District; and 2) facilitate community dialogue and engagement on critical public safety issues such as sex trafficking, mental health diversion efforts, and law enforcement oversight.

During the April 18, 2016 meeting, the Empowerment Congress' Public Safety & Justice Committee requested that the Probation Oversight Commission Working Group and consultant consider doing the following:

1. Have a community awareness and understand the makeup of impacted communities so their work can be done in a culturally sensitive context.
2. Interview victims of crime to get their perspective on services.
3. Allow former probationers to be interviewed about their experiences with the Department.
4. Not allow the focus of the group to solely or primarily focus on structure, but on outcomes.
5. Human decency – gauge how compassionate employees deal with clients and clients' response to staff.
6. Create a website accessible by the public on which the work of the committee and consultant is posted.